

Amendments to Claims

Please amend claims 24-44 as follows:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)
7. (cancelled)
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (cancelled)
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (cancelled)
15. (cancelled)
16. (cancelled)
17. (cancelled)
18. (cancelled)
19. (cancelled)
20. (cancelled)
21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) A method for treating the surface of a hydratable cementitious composition, comprising:

providing a hydratable cementitious composition having a surface to be etched, said hydratable cementitious composition comprising a hydratable cement binder comprising Portland cement, masonry cement, or mortar cement, and water; said hydratable cementitious composition further comprising an aggregate selected from the group consisting of sand, crushed gravel, and stone;

applying a coating composition onto a surface of said cementitious composition, said coating composition comprising at least one cement set retarding

active component dispersed in a vegetable oil or derivative thereof, an animal oil or derivative thereof, or a mixture of said oils or derivatives thereof; and

washing away a portion of said surface of said cementitious composition coated with said coating composition using a pressure-washer or hose, thereby revealing an etched portion in said cementitious composition comprising said aggregate.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 22 wherein said vegetable oil, said animal oil, or mixture or derivative thereof is present in an amount not less than 1% and not greater than 98% based on total weight of said coating composition.

25. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 22 wherein said vegetable oil, said animal oil, or mixture or derivative thereof is present in an amount not less than 25% and not greater than 92% based on total weight of said coating composition.

26. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 22 wherein said vegetable oil, said animal oil, or mixture or derivative thereof is present in an amount not less than 50% and not greater than 90% based on total weight of said coating composition

27. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 26 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is dispersed in a vegetable oil.

28. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 27 wherein said vegetable oil is selected from the group consisting of rapeseed oil, sunflower oil, soy bean oil, castor oil, peanut oil, grape seed oil, corn oil, canola oil, coconut oil, linseed oil, sesame oil, olive oil, palm oil, almond oil, avocado oil, china wood oil, cocoa oil, safflower oil, hemp seed oil, walnut oil, poppy seed oil, oiticaca oil, palm nut oil, perilla oil, pecan oil, tung oil, and pine tar oil.

29. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 22 wherein said vegetable oil comprises at least 50% by total weight of rapeseed oil.

30. (currently amended) The method ~~composition~~ of claim 22 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is dispersed in a vegetable oil or derivative thereof.

31. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 30 wherein said vegetable oil derivative comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of mono and diglycerides of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, esters of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, ethoxylated compounds of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, C₆-C₃₀ fatty alcohols, C₆-C₃₀ fatty amines, C₆-C₃₀ fatty amides, and tall oil derivatives.

32. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is dispersed in a vegetable oil or derivative thereof, and said vegetable oil or derivative being an essential oil.

33. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 wherein said essential oil is selected from the essences of orange, grapefruit, lemon, citrus, and pinetree.

34. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is dispersed in an animal oil selected from the group consisting of lard oil, bone oil, herring oil, cod liver oil, neatsfoot oil, sardine oil, lanoline oil, fish oil, sheep wool oil, and tallow oil.

35. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 34 wherein said animal oil contains a material selected from the group consisting of mono and diglycerides of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, esters of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, ethoxylated compounds of C₆-C₃₀ fatty acids, C₆-C₃₀ fatty alcohols, C₆-C₃₀ fatty amines, C₆-C₃₀ fatty amides, and tall oil derivatives.

36. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 wherein said composition comprises at least two different vegetable oils, or a vegetable oil and a vegetable oil derivative.

37. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is a sugar, or an acid or salt thereof.

38. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 37 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is present in an amount not less than 1% and not greater than 20% by total weight of the composition.

39. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 38 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid or its salt, malic acid or its salt, tartaric acid or its salt, citric acid or its salt, gluconic acid or its salt, heptagluconic acid or its salt.

40. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 38 wherein said at least one cement set retarding active component is a sugar.

41. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 40 wherein said sugar is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, roferose, dextrose, maltose, lactose, xylose, fructose, mannose, and glucose.

42. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 further comprising water or petroleum-based solvent.

43. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 22 further comprising a pigment, colorant, dye, filler, rheology modifier, viscosity modifier, or mixture thereof.

44. (currently amended) The method composition of claim 25 wherein said coating composition comprises mixture of said vegetable oil or derivative thereof and said animal oil or derivative thereof.

45. (previously presented) A method for treating the surface of a hydratable cementitious composition, comprising:

(A) providing a hydratable cementitious composition having a surface to be etched, said hydratable cementitious composition comprising a hydratable cement binder comprising Portland cement, masonry cement, or mortar cement, and water; said hydratable cementitious composition further comprising an aggregate selected from the group consisting of sand, crushed gravel, and stone;

(B) applying a coating composition onto a surface of said cementitious composition, wherein

said coating composition comprises at least one cement set retarding active component present in an amount not less than 1% and not greater than 20% by total weight of said coating composition, said at least one cement set retarding active component being dispersed in an oil carrier which is present in an amount not less than 25% and not greater than 92% based on total weight of said coating composition, and said oil carrier comprising at least two different vegetable oils or a vegetable oil and a vegetable oil derivative, and at least one animal oil;

said at least one cement set retarding active component being selected from the group consisting of carboxylic acid or its salt, malic acid or its salt, tartaric acid or its salt, citric acid or its salt, gluconic acid or its salt, heptagluconic acid or its salt; and

said coating composition further comprising a pigment, colorant, dye, or mixture thereof, and said coating composition further comprising a filler, rheology modifier, viscosity modifier, or mixture thereof; and

(C) washing away a portion of said surface of said cementitious composition coated with said coating composition using a pressure-washer or hose, thereby revealing an etched portion in said cementitious composition comprising said aggregate.